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SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION WITH
REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF
INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES
AND PEOPLES

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Note by the Chairman

1. Subsidiary bodies

1. Having regard to the expected workload of the Special Committee for the current session and in the light of past experience, it is suggested that the Special Committee maintain the Working Group as a steering committee, as well as the Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance, subject to any modification in its membership that it might deem appropriate.

2. Allocation of items and procedure for consideration

2. Annexed to the present note is a list of matters pending for consideration by the Special Committee during the year, together with an indication of the procedure that the Committee may wish to adopt. An indication is also given of the suggested allocation with regard to each item.

3. It is understood in that connection that, in their examination of the items allocated for their respective consideration, the Special Committee and its subsidiary bodies should take into account the resolutions and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its fiftieth session that are relevant to the work of the Committee, as listed in the note by the Secretary-General (A/AC.109/L.1840). It is also understood that they should continue to be guided by the relevant provisions of the resolution adopted by the Assembly on the occasion of the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration (resolution 45/33 of 20 November 1990), as well as the Plan of Action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 46/181 of 19 December 1991 on the basis of proposals contained in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General on the Decade (A/46/634/Rev.1)

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3. Order of priority for consideration of items

4. The Chairman will hold consultations with regard to the order of priority to be given for consideration of items in plenary meetings.

5. It is also his intention to hold consultations on specific activities envisaged under the Plan of Action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

6. In the meantime, subject to the availability of the working papers prepared by the Secretariat, it is suggested that the Subcommittee should conduct its substantive work in accordance with the schedule of meetings as approved by the General Assembly at its fiftieth session (A/50/23 (Part I), chap. I, para. 54).

4. Recommendations of the Special Committee to the General Assembly

7. In accordance with paragraph 31 of General Assembly decision 34/401 of 29 November 1979, and in the light of past experience, it is suggested that the Special Committee continue to follow the procedure adopted at its 1982 session, 1/ in connection with the formulation of its recommendations to the Assembly at its fifty-first session.

5. Utilization of conference-servicing resources

8. At its fiftieth session, the General Assembly decided to waive rules 67 and 108 of the rules of procedure of the Assembly in order to permit meetings to be declared open and debates to proceed without the presence of the quorum required under those rules. The Assembly also decided that morning meetings should begin at 10 a.m.

9. As those measures have further enhanced the effective utilization of conference-servicing resources, it is suggested that the Special Committee and its subsidiary bodies continue to follow the same procedure. It should be understood that, in accordance with the rules cited, the presence of a majority of members would continue to be required for any decisions to be taken.

10. In the same context, the Subcommittee is requested, as far as possible, to schedule meetings only when a sufficient number of speakers will ensure full utilization of the time allotted and also to minimize the wastage in conference resources resulting from the cancellation of scheduled meetings. The Subcommittee is requested to continue the practice of holding extensive consultations and informal meetings whenever possible, with a view to reducing the number of formal meetings to a minimum.

Notes

1/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/37/23/Rev.1), chap. I, paras. 60-69.

Annex

MATTERS PENDING FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE DURING 1996

Question	Allocation	Procedure for consideration
East Timor	Plenary	As separate item
Falkland Islands (Malvinas)	"	"
Gibraltar	"	"
New Caledonia	"	"
Western Sahara	"	"
Special Committee decision of 15 August 1991 concerning Puerto Rico (A/50/23 (Part I), chap. I, para. 43)	"	As appropriate
Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations and related questions (General Assembly resolution 50/32)	"	As separate item
Activities of foreign economic and other interests which impede the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in Territories under colonial domination (General Assembly resolution 50/33)	Plenary	"
Military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration (General Assembly decision 50/412)	"	"
Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations (General Assembly resolution 50/34)	"	"
American Samoa	Subcommittee	To be decided by Subcommittee

Question	Allocation	Procedure for consideration
Anguilla	Subcommittee	To be decided by Subcommittee
Bermuda	"	"
British Virgin Islands	"	"
Cayman Islands	"	"
Guam	"	"
Montserrat	"	"
Pitcairn	"	"
St. Helena	"	"
Tokelau	"	"
Turks and Caicos Islands	"	"
United States Virgin Islands	"	"
International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism (General Assembly resolution 46/181 and report of the Secretary-General (A/46/634/Rev.1, annex))	Plenary/ Working Group	As appropriate
Question of holding a series of meetings away from Headquarters	Working Group	"
Question of the list of Territories to which the Declaration is applicable	"	"
Pattern of conferences (General Assembly resolution 50/206)	"	"
Question of sending visiting missions to Territories (para. 12 of General Assembly resolution 50/39)	Plenary/ Subcommittee	"
Dissemination of information on decolonization (General Assembly resolution 50/40)	"	"
Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of All Colonial Territories	"	"

Question	Allocation	Procedure for consideration
Matters relating to the small Territories (para. 11 (c) of General Assembly resolution 50/39)	Plenary/ Subcommittee	To be taken into consideration in the examination of specific Territories
International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (art. 15 of the Convention)	"	"
Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories (General Assembly resolution 50/35)	Subcommittee	"
Compliance of Member States with the Declaration and other relevant resolutions on decolonization (para. 11 (b) of General Assembly resolution 50/39)	"	"